Application No.: 09/902,091 Docket No.: 6462.01

Response to Office Action of March 24, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

- 1. A device for administering an injectable product, comprising:
 - a) a base section;
- b) a container arranged in the base section from which container a product dose is dispensed through a needle by displacement of a piston associated with the container; and
- c) a drive unit, comprising a driven member and a drive element, the drive element applying a drive force on said driven member upon actuating the drive unit, by which drive force said driven member is displaced in the direction of the piston, thus advancing said piston within said container; and
- d) means for generating a damping force, said damping force interacting with the drive force and counter forces related to use of the device.
- 2. The device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the damping force decreases in the course of displacement of said piston.
- 3. The device as set forth in claim 1, wherein said driven member forms at least one wall of a chamber, said chamber comprising at least one chamber port for a medium flowing into said chamber and out of said chamber, wherein, when advancing said driven member, said chamber port allows for a delayed pressure compensation and a thereby accompanying change in volume of said chamber.
- 4. The device as set forth in claim 3, wherein said chamber is a low-pressure chamber.
- 5. The device as set forth in claim 1, wherein a contact pressure element is provided for generating said damping force, transmitting a clamping force between said driven member and a counter element, wherein one of said driven member and said counter element provides a contact

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pressure surface for said contact pressure element, extending in a forward direction of said driven member so as to cause the clamping force to decrease in the course of advancement.

- 6. The device as set forth in claim 5, wherein said contact pressure element is a pliable ring, arranged in a gap formed between said driven member and said counter element, said gap widening in the course of advance of said driven member.
- 7. The device as set forth in claim 1, wherein a stripper is carried on the device, which stripper can be moved back and forth in a longitudinal direction of the needle in order to strip off a needle safety cap applied to the needle, said stripper carried on the device in such a way as to allow said stripper to remain on the device during an injection and to be pushed back for insertion of said needle.
- 8. The device as set forth in claim 1, wherein a needle safety sleeve is displaceably arranged in relation to said base section from a base position in which it generally surrounds the needle to an administering position, in which said needle projects beyond said needle safety sleeve, said needle safety sleeve being blockable against displacement in a direction towards the administering position in relation to said base section.
- 9. The device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the device is an auto-injection device, said container, including the needle attached to it, being displaceable in relation to said base section from a base position to an administering position for insertion of the needle, and, in the base position, said container being blocked against advancement by a releaseable engagement of a blocking means.
- 10. The device as set forth in claim 9, wherein said blocking means selectively blocks said container against advancement and said needle safety sleeve against retraction.

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11. A device for administering an injectable product, comprising:

a base section;

a drive unit, comprising at least a driven member and a drive element, the drive element applying a drive force on said driven member, whereby the driven member is displaced toward

the base section; and

a damping arrangement operably coupled to the drive unit for generating a damping

force.

12. The device according to claim 11, further comprising a needle safety sleeve displaceably

arranged in relation to said base section from a base position in which it generally surrounds a

needle operably coupled to the device to an administering position, in which the needle projects

beyond said needle safety sleeve, said needle safety sleeve being releaseably blockable against

displacement.

13. A device for administering an injectable product, comprising:

a base section;

a drive unit, comprising at least a driven member and a drive element, the drive element

applying a drive force on said driven member, whereby the driven member is displaced toward

the base section; and

a needle safety sleeve displaceably coupled to said base section and having a base position in

which it generally surrounds a needle operably coupled to the device and an administering

position, in which the needle projects beyond said needle safety sleeve, said needle safety sleeve

being releaseably blockable against displacement.